

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, May 21, 2001

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PENCE).

## DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 21, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE PENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

## MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, this Nation has sought Your blessing from one generation to the next. Before we were brought into being, You are God, without beginning or end.

Time moves quickly, but in Your eyes 200 years are like yesterday, come and gone. Be with us now.

Bless this Chamber and all its Members and activities. From page to Parliamentarian, from guide to gardener, bless those who labor here, contributing in great and small measure to historic government and a productive future.

At any moment some in this busy world may seem to avoid work. By Your holy inspiration, bring about true freedom across this land. May all choose daily tasks where they find respect and personal dignity, assuring their own independence and creativity while providing support to loved ones and quality service to others.

Let Your glory be revealed in Your servants and grant success to the work of our hands. Grant success to the work of our hands now and forever. Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GRANGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## WORKING OVERTIME FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, in the short time since the 107th Republican-led Congress was sworn in, we have taken historic action on the most important issues for the American people.

Today, we can probably say that we have honored our commitment to pass a budget resolution that lowers taxes, improves education, and strengthens retirement security.

Our budget symbolizes the very core of our beliefs: Increased freedom for

Americans, freedom from the stifling national debt, from a crippling tax burden, and from troubling retirement worries.

We have proposed an across-the-board tax relief package that benefits all taxpayers and eliminates the taxes on marriage and death. We have passed legislation to give Americans more options to successfully save for their retirement.

We can continue to empower American families by allowing parents and educators to make education decisions which will work best for their own children.

Madam Speaker, the American people want the freedom to make decisions that work best for them. Republicans have been working overtime to give the American people the ability to do just that.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS GRADUATES

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, due to changes in the House schedule and my bill being on the Suspension Calendar today, I was regrettably unable to attend graduation at the University of the Virgin Islands this past weekend in my district. But I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the 324 graduates from both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses.

Many in this first class of the millennium, overcame great hardships of health, finance, and family life to reach this milestone. Their perseverance and achievement speak well to the future of our islands, for they are our promise for tomorrow.

Their spirit, knowledge, determination, commitment to excellence and compassion are the foundation on which we will reenergize our commitment to building our beloved community.

So I am here this afternoon to extend my applause to them and their families. We wish them the very best life has to offer and God's richest blessings as they use their hard-earned degrees to serve humanity.

Madam Speaker, I also want to add our appreciation and commendation to our outstanding institution, the University of the Virgin Islands, as it continues to fulfill a vital role in the development of our territory, our region, and our Nation.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.